



2003 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 84

May 18, 2004 – Introduced by COMMITTEE ON ASSEMBLY ORGANIZATION, by request of Representative Boyle and Senator Jauch. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** the life and public service of Byron C. Ostby.

2 Whereas, Byron C. Ostby was born on August 17, 1924, in Superior, Wisconsin,
3 and died on April 28, 2003, in Madison, Wisconsin; and

4 Whereas, Mr. Ostby was educated in the Superior public schools; and

5 Whereas, Mr. Ostby served his country in the U.S. navy during World War II
6 from 1943 to 1946; and

7 Whereas, Mr. Ostby enrolled at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1946
8 where he received his B.S. degree in 1949 and his J.D. degree in 1951 from the UW
9 Law School; and

10 Whereas, he married Helen Barbara Wear on September 8, 1951; and

11 Whereas, Mr. Ostby was elected to the Wisconsin assembly in 1948
12 representing the first district of Douglas County and served in the 1949 and 1951
13 sessions; and

14 Whereas, during his tenure in the assembly, he served on the Committee on
15 Education and the Committee on Judiciary; and

1 Whereas, Mr. Ostby was appointed by Governor Walter Kohler, Jr., to the
2 delegation of Wisconsin legislators participating in the 1951 recommissioning of the
3 USS Wisconsin (BB-64); and

4 Whereas, much of Mr. Ostby's life focused on service to the country of Norway,
5 and he was appointed to the Madison-Oslo Sister City Committee in 1964; and

6 Whereas, Mr. Ostby was appointed honorary consul of Norway for the state of
7 Wisconsin by King Olav V on June 13, 1967, and granted an exequatur by President
8 Lyndon Johnson on November 29, 1967; and

9 Whereas, he was bestowed the honor of being the 3rd family member awarded
10 the Knights Cross First Class, Royal Order of St. Olav in 1976; and

11 Whereas, Mr. Ostby, serving as consul of Norway, acted as host to Norwegian
12 dignitaries who visited the Madison area, and hosted exchange visits of the
13 Madison-Oslo Sister City Program; and

14 Whereas, after serving for more than 29 years as consul of Norway, Mr. Ostby
15 retired from the position; and

16 Whereas, after his tenure in the Wisconsin legislature, Mr. Ostby was
17 appointed by Governor Tommy G. Thompson in 1988 to the governor's Commission
18 on the Second Recommissioning of the USS Wisconsin and invited by the Navy
19 League to participate in the final cruise of this great battleship in 1991; and

20 Whereas, Mr. Ostby was executive director for the Wisconsin Railroad
21 Association from 1961 until his retirement in 1991; now, therefore, be it

22 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the members of the
23 Wisconsin legislature commend the devoted public service that Byron C. Ostby
24 contributed to this state and his community, express their sorrow at his death, and
25 extend their condolences to his family and friends; and, be it further

1 ***Resolved, That*** the assembly chief clerk shall provide copies of this joint
2 resolution to Mr. Ostby's 2 daughters, Laurie Kehler of Half Moon Bay, California,
3 and Signe Cook of Woodside, California, and to his son, David Ostby of Madison,
4 Wisconsin.

5

(END)